

Oildale



August 1 – August 29, 2009
Reception: Saturday, August 1, 7–10 pm

LOS ANGELES, CA. - L2kontemporary (Chinatown) presents *Oildale*, an exhibition of six artists who grew up in Oildale, California and, at various times, attended the same high school (North High) and college (Cal State Bakersfield).

Oildale is a small community (population 35,000) situated north of the Kern River in Bakersfield in the San Joaquin Valley, about a two hour drive north of Los Angeles. The area is known as much for its massive oil fields, the “Bakersfield Sound” of Buck Owens and Merle Haggard, and honky-tonk bars as it is for its history as a destination of Dust Bowl migrants, its agricultural industry, and notorious conservative attitudes. Each of these artists - Greg Colson, Jeff Colson, Ed Lightner, Jill Thayer, Deanna Thompson, and Thomas Trivitt was affected in their own way by the socio-cultural conditions of Oildale, and meet up in this group exhibition.

OILDALE opens Saturday, August 1, 2009 with an artist reception from 7-10pm. The exhibition continues through August 29. Gallery Hours: Thursday through Sunday 1-6pm or by appointment.

Greg Colson was born in 1956 in Seattle, Washington and grew up in Bakersfield, California. He studied at Cal State Bakersfield and Claremont Graduate School. His art combines conflicting notions of order and neglect, image and support, the big picture and small details in an attempt to break down the distinction between subject and context so that all aspects of the work may ultimately be considered. Colson has had exhibitions throughout the United States and Europe. His works are in many public collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), the Panza Collection (Lugano, Switzerland), and the Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles). He lives and works in Venice, California.

Jeff Colson was born in Santa Ana, California in 1957 and grew up in Bakersfield and Oildale. He attended North High School and credits art instructor Bill Ryan as an important early influence. Jeff received a BA degree at Cal State Bakersfield. His work is based around wobbly logic that results in comically over-scaled and furiously emphatic objects. His work has been exhibited in the United

post industrial art for the post industrial age

States and Europe and is in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Collection of Count Giuseppe Panza di Buomo; and the Rosenkranz Foundation. Jeff currently exhibits at Ace Gallery in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills.

Edward Lightner was born in Bakersfield in 1960, grew up in Oildale and attended North High School class of '78. With the piece *Sun Fun Stay Play*, Lightner forces the past to collide into the present like a 100 mile-per-hour car accident. He uses the earth from his birthplace, along with stones, twigs and alcohol cans to mark both his high school and post high school years. In conjunction with objects and images that signify both sexual orientation and HIV status (as always, nuclear imagery serves as surrogate for the AIDS plague), *Sun Fun Stay Play* is placed as both marker of time and place.

Jill Thayer was born in Sacramento, California in 1956 and moved to Bakersfield in 1969. She attended North High School, Bakersfield College, and Cal State Bakersfield. Jill received an MA in Interdisciplinary Studies combining issues in contemporary art, gallery practicum, and business in the MBA program at CSUB. Currently, she is completing a PhD in Cultural Studies/Museum Studies at Claremont Graduate University in the praxis of studio art and critical theory. Her work integrates mixed-media and digital methodologies, exploring systems of structure that inform, support, and challenge existing perceptions in one's life. Jill's work is included in private and corporate collections here and abroad.

Deanna Thompson was born in Bakersfield in 1958, and grew up in Oildale where she attended North High School. She received a BA degree from Cal State Bakersfield. She has lived and worked in the Los Angeles area until her recent move to the high desert. The desert has inspired her delicate landscape and still life paintings, which often feature debris piles, broken and abandoned objects, and derelict homestead cabins. Her most recent exhibition was at *Display@Arts & Science* gallery in Tokyo.

Thomas Trivitt incorporates automotive pin striping techniques and high gloss enamels in his paintings. Working with the canvas on the floor, he moves around the work quickly, laying down thousands of very thin lines dancing with the paint until the painting can dance alone. He was born and raised in Bakersfield, attended North High School, and Cal State Bakersfield. His work is shown and included in collections throughout California and until recently, at the Art Rental Gallery at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.